

Executive Summary

The Power County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan objective is to provide Power County residents, public and private organizations with assistance and recommendations to mitigate wildfire risk and hazard vulnerability presented by wildfires within Power County. This objective is reached by public and official participation identifying and documenting areas of high and medium risk to wildfire hazards. Actions identified to decrease wildfire risk and hazards within Power County are focused on public safety, emergency services, county infrastructure, natural resources, and property protection.

The Power County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan will tier to the Idaho State Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan. The FEMA Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Worksheet was used for plan formulation, and Target Dates. Development and review of the plan was accomplished by the Power County Wildland Fire Mitigation Planning Group with participation from Federal, State, County agencies and private citizens.

Organizational structure of the Power County Wildland Fire Mitigation Group was managed under a modified Incident Command System (ICS). The use of ICS provided optimal information exchange, hazard identification and mitigation recommendation development. Public participation was accomplished by public workshops, distribution of questionnaires regarding wildfire concerns and suggestions, participation by homeowners, and utilization of contractor-collected public input.

The priorities of the plan were developed by the Power County Wildland Fire Mitigation Planning Group and are standard priorities for most risk assessments, hazard reduction activities and wildfire incidents:

1. Protection of Life: Identify and provide mitigation recommendations for areas of high wildfire risks that are in or adjacent to homes and communities, and improve critical county infrastructure facilities.
2. Protection of Property: Identify and provide mitigation recommendations for properties of moderate and high wildfire risk. Increase public awareness through education, training and information sharing addressing wildfire risks and mitigation measures.
3. Protection of Resources: Identify resources that are at risk to wildfires and implement natural resource planning to protect these resources. To include protection and mitigation of at risk watersheds, vegetation, fish, wildlife and maintain soil stability.
4. Values: Scenic, historical, cultural.

Implicit in these priorities are the need to:

Improve Wildfire Emergency Services: Improve county infrastructure and wildfire emergency service planning, training, communications, and equipment.

Increase Public Awareness of Wildfire Prevention: Increase public awareness of firewise practices and wildfire prevention through education training and information sharing.

Improve Partnerships for Implementation: Utilize partnerships currently established and develop additional participation with State, Federal, and private organizations.

The following summary table (Table 1) presents the hazards, in priority order based on the impact on the plan objectives, and the mitigation goal to alleviate the hazard. Each mitigation goal also presents the target dates for completion of the goal and an estimated cost for all the implementation ideas for achieving the goal.

The page numbers in the goal column point to the implementation ideas implementing that goal. The implementation ideas provide sources and resources for the implementation of the goal. These may include various potential grant or funding sources and organizations that could provide expertise or assistance for goal implementation.

As the administrators of the Power County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan, the Power County Board of Commissioners are the authority and have the responsibility to adopt the plan.

The plan maintenance section includes recommendations for annual plan review and monitoring. A bi-annual re-evaluation of priorities for action items and progress is also recommended. A total plan revision should be conducted every five years. This plan maintenance will be directed by the Power County Commissioners, and coordinated with the Power County Disaster Services Specialist and the Power County Volunteer Fire Fighters. In addition, participation will be needed by various positions represented in the Power County Wildland Fire Mitigation Group, coupled with public input.

An economic analysis template/direction examining potential loss as a result of wildfires in Power County is provided in Appendix D. Though total potential loss to catastrophic wildfires is variable by year, the cost/effectiveness of fuel treatments, county infrastructure improvements, and emergency wildfire services improvements will provide benefits to the primary objectives: protection of life and property.

Table 1. Hazard/Mitigation Summary

HAZARD				MITIGATION		
Rating¹			Description	Goal	Target Date	Cost
Life	Prop	Res				
High	High	High	Power County has a limited communication network with some portions of the county without any communication coverage at all.	Provide additional communication capability for Power County dispatchers, Fire departments and residents. (see page 20)	Fall, 2004-Spring 2005	\$90,000
High	High	High	Power County has limited sources of water for fighting wildland fires and many of those sources are vulnerable to disruption of service in the event of a wildland fire.	Provide additional sources of water at strategic locations throughout Power County and means of supplementing or replacing service in the event of disruption. (see page 21)	Annually	\$16,300+
High	High	Med	Power County has limited fire station locations and equipment that result in poor response times to fires in outlying portions of the county.	Provide Power County VFDs with facility improvements and equipment as identified in the Three Rivers RC&D Survey of Volunteer Fire Departments. (see page 22)	Spring 2004-Spring 2005	\$56,250
Med	High	Med	Power County is not fully covered by fire protection districts and the districts that are present in the county are not fully coordinated together.	Provide complete and/or coordinated fire protection coverage for all residents of Power County. (see page 24)	Winter 2004	Unknown
Med	High	Med	Power County has numerous county roads, infrastructure, communication sites, developments and communities that require hazardous fuels reduction.	Reduce identified hazardous fuels buildup in high-risk areas on a countywide scale. (see page 25)	Annually	Unknown
High	High	Low	Power County lacks defensible space and fire resistant building materials in some developments and at private homes.	Create and implement defensible space standards by homeowners and developments and utilize standard Fire Protection Guidelines for Residential Development In the Wildland/Urban Interface for subdivisions as	Winter 2004-Spring 2006	\$4,000

¹ Hazards were rated as High, Medium, or Low impact on the plan objectives for protection of Life, Property, and Resources.

HAZARD				MITIGATION		
Rating ¹			Description	Goal	Target Date	Cost
Life	Prop	Res				
				identified in NFPA 1144, <i>Standard for Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire</i> , 2002 edition. (see page 28)		
Med	Med	Med	Power County volunteer fire departments are have specific needs to meet standards or requirements pertaining to: Training, PPE, Communications, Equipment, Apparatus and Facilities.	Provide Power County VFDs with required training, communications, PPE, Apparatus, Facility improvements and equipment as identified in the Three Rivers RC&D Survey of Volunteer Fire Departments. (see page 28)	Spring 2005-Spring 2006	\$157,900
Med	Med	Med	Power County citizens have had limited firewise education, information and awareness with regards to wildland fire.	Gain community or development participation in firewise activities including education and information distribution. (see page 30)	Annually	\$5,750
Med	Med	Low	Power County Developments/subdivisions/homeowners are without emergency wildfire plans or other emergency plans in place.	Develop County Fire-Emergency Mobilization Plan, and County/Interagency Communications Plan with Landowners and Cooperators in Power County and develop subdivision/homeowners wildfire and other emergency operations plan(s) as requested. (see page 32)	Winter 2005-Summer 2006	\$2,000
Low	Med	Low	Power County has a large amount of land in the CRP increasing fuel loads beyond what would normally occur on tilled farmland.	Apply fuels treatment – hand, mechanical, prescribed fire or combination of treatments to reduce fuels loads on CRP land. (see page 33)	Spring 2005	Unknown
Low	Med	Low	Power County has no comprehensive inventory of homes and values at risk in the event of a wildland fire.	Develop a comprehensive inventory of homes and provide the inventory to dispatchers and VFDs in times of emergency response. (see page 34)	Annually	\$300